CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A catheter unit comprising:

a needle; and

an elongated blunting member coupled to a flash chamber and to a safety member, the blunting member having a blunt distal tip and an opened proximal end for allowing blood to flow generally directly to a porous member seated within a member at the proximal end of the blunting member;

the blunting member having a hollow lumen therebetween extending longitudinally through the blunting member, the blunting member being disposed coaxially within the bore of the needle.

2. The catheter unit of claim 1, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash chamber.

3. The catheter unit of claim 1, wherein the flash chamber has a proximal end and a distal end and a porous member is attached to distal end of the flash chamber.

4. The catheter unit of claim 3, wherein the porous member is removable.

5. The catheter unit of claim 3, wherein the porous member is approximately in the range of 35% to 55% of porosity.

6. An intravascular assembly, the assembly comprising:

a tubular introducer sheath having a proximal end, a distal end and a hollow lumen extending longitudinally therethrough;

a needle having a sharpened distal tip and a hollow bore extending longitudinally therethrough, the needle being disposed coaxially within the lumen of the introducer sheath;

an elongated blunting member having a hollow lumen extending longitudinally therethrough without apertures and having an opened proximal end and a blunt distal tip, the elongated blunting member being disposed coaxially within the bore of the needle;

the blunting member being axially moveable from a non-blunting position wherein the blunt distal tip of the blunting member is positioned within the bore of the needle a spaced distance proximal to the sharpened distal tip of the needle, to a distally advanced blunting position wherein the blunt distal tip of the blunting member protrudes out of and beyond the sharpened distal tip of the needle.

7. The assembly of claim 6, wherein an at least partially transparent flash chamber is formed on the proximal end of the blunting member; and, wherein the blunting apparatus further comprises:

a lumen which extends longitudinally through the blunting member;

the assembly being thereby operative such that when the distal end of the needle enters a vessel, such that fluid enters the bore of the needle and passes through the needle and then enters the lumen of the blunting member and exits the blunting member by entering the flash chamber, such that the presence of blood within the flash chamber is visible through at least a transparent portion of the flash chamber and whereby the fluid may contact a porous member which is coupled to a housing for the blunting member.

8. The catheter unit of claim 6, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash chamber.

9. A catheter comprising

a needle;

an elongated blunting member coupled to the needle and to a stopper, the blunting member causing blood to flow generally directly to a stopper, the stopper is coupled to a chamber.

10. The catheter of claim 9, wherein the stopper is porous.

11. The catheter of claim 9, wherein the stopper is removable.

12. The catheter of claim 9, wherein the stopper has porosity approximately in the range of 35% to 55%.

13. The catheter unit of claim 9, wherein the porous member is functionally open allowing fluid from a patient to exit the catheter unit after thirty seconds of blood entering the flash chamber.

ADD a3

ADD B2